

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the surface treatment of an evaporator brazed with aluminum or aluminum alloy, ~~in particular for a liquid coolant circuit in an air conditioner for the passenger compartment of a vehicle,~~ in which [[the]] surfaces of the evaporator intended to come into contact with a medium to be cooled are covered with a treatment liquid and said liquid is dried, the latter comprising substances capable of forming after drying on said surfaces an adherent coat having film-forming, hydrophilic and antimicrobial properties, characterized in that said substances comprise one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, properties of adherence to the substrate and film-forming, corrosion-inhibiting and hydrophilic properties and one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, antimicrobial properties, the ratio by weight of the substances capable of conferring adherence properties and film-forming, corrosion-inhibiting and hydrophilic properties to the substances capable of conferring antimicrobial properties being less than or equal to 2/100, and in that said surfaces are covered with the treatment liquid without a preliminary stage of surface conversion.

2. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, in which said surfaces are covered with the treatment liquid without a preliminary stage of degreasing or stripping said surfaces.

3. (Original) The process as claimed in either of claims 1 or [[and]] 2, in which

the ratio by weight of the substances capable of conferring adherence properties and film-forming, corrosion-inhibiting and hydrophilic properties to the substances capable of conferring antimicrobial properties is between 0.1/100 and 2/100.

4. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, in which said substances do not exhibit a characteristic odor.

5. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, in which said substances comprise, as substances capable of conferring, on said coat, properties of adherence to the substrate, one or more polymers chosen from the polyurethane, epoxy, silicone, acrylic, polyimine, polyamine and polyurea types.

6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, in which said substances comprise one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, at the same time, film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties and hydrophilic properties.

7. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 6, in which said substances capable of conferring, at the same time, film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties and hydrophilic properties are polymers chosen from the polyurethane, epoxy, silicone, acrylic,

polyimine, polyamine and polyurea types which are partially crosslinked so as to allow hydrophilic groups, such as carboxyl, hydroxyl, amine, imine, ketone and aldehyde groups, to remain.

8. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~, in which said substances comprise one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties and one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, hydrophilic properties, the ratio by weight of the substances capable of conferring film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties to the substances capable of conferring hydrophilic properties being between 20/100 and 50/100.

9. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 8, in which said substances capable of conferring film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties are polymers chosen from the polyurethane, epoxy, silicone, acrylic, polyimine, polyamine and polyurea types which are crosslinked so as to allow virtually no hydrophilic group to remain and said substances capable of conferring hydrophilic properties are chosen from silica, silica modified by the bonding of organic radicals to silicon atoms, titanium oxide and the hydrophilic varieties of zeolites.

10. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding~~

~~claims~~, in which said substances capable of conferring antimicrobial properties are organic or organometallic compounds chosen from copper salts, zinc salts, 2-(n-octyl)isothiazolin-3-one, zinc pyridinethione, thiabendazole and methyl 2-benzimidazolecarbamate.

11. (Currently Amended) An evaporator brazed with aluminum or aluminum alloy, ~~in particular for a liquid coolant circuit in an air conditioner for the passenger compartment of a vehicle,~~ in which ~~[[the]]~~ surfaces intended to come into contact with a medium to be cooled are coated with an adherent coat comprising one or more substances conferring, on said coat, properties of adherence to the substrate and film-forming, corrosion-inhibiting and hydrophilic properties and one or more substances conferring, on said coat, antimicrobial properties, the ratio by weight of the substances conferring adherence properties and film-forming, corrosion-inhibiting and hydrophilic properties to the substances conferring antimicrobial properties being less than or equal to 2/100, and said surfaces being devoid of any undercoat for surface conversion.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The evaporator as claimed in claim 11 ~~either of claims 11 and 12,~~ in which the thickness of said coat is between 0.1 and 5 μm .

14. (Currently Amended) The evaporator as claimed in claim 11 ~~one of claims 11 to 13,~~ in which said coat is capable of limiting the phenomena of adsorption and of desorption so as to prevent the formation of odors.

15. (Currently Amended) The evaporator as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of claims 11 to 14~~, in which said coat is insoluble in water.

16. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, in which the ratio by weight of the substances capable of conferring adherence properties and film-forming, corrosion-inhibiting and hydrophilic properties to the substances capable of conferring antimicrobial properties is between 0.1/100 and 2/100.

17. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, in which said substances do not exhibit a characteristic odor.

18. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, in which said substances comprise, as substances capable of conferring, on said coat, properties of adherence to the substrate, one or more polymers chosen from the polyurethane, epoxy, silicone, acrylic, polyimine, polyamine and polyurea types.

19. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, in which said substances comprise one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, at the same time, film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties and hydrophilic properties.

20. (New) The process as claimed in claim 19, in which said substances capable of conferring, at the same time, film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties and hydrophilic properties are polymers chosen from the polyurethane, epoxy, silicone, acrylic, polyimine, polyamine and polyurea types which are partially crosslinked so as to allow hydrophilic groups, such as carboxyl, hydroxyl, amine, imine, ketone and aldehyde groups, to remain.

21. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, in which said substances comprise one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties and one or more substances capable of conferring, on said coat, hydrophilic properties, the ratio by weight of the substances capable of conferring film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties to the substances capable of conferring hydrophilic properties being between 20/100 and 50/100.

22. (New) The process as claimed in claim 21, in which said substances capable of conferring film-forming and corrosion-inhibiting properties are polymers chosen from the polyurethane, epoxy, silicone, acrylic, polyimine, polyamine and polyurea types which are crosslinked so as to allow virtually no hydrophilic group to remain and said substances capable of conferring hydrophilic properties are chosen from silica, silica modified by the bonding of organic radicals to silicon atoms, titanium oxide and the hydrophilic varieties of

zeolites.

23. (New) The process as claimed in claim 11, in which said substances capable of conferring antimicrobial properties are organic or organometallic compounds chosen from copper salts, zinc salts, 2-(n-octyl)isothiazolin-3-one, zinc pyridinethione, thiabendazole and methyl 2-benzimidazolecarbamate.